



PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT**

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P-7046 01	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/CH2003/000387	International filing date (day/month/year) 16 June 2003 (16.06.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 27 June 2002 (27.06.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B65B 63/04, B65H 45/103		
Applicant TEXTILMA AG		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 10 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 30 October 2003 (30.10.2003)	Date of completion of this report 19 October 2004 (19.10.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/CH2003/000387

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:^{*} the international application as originally filed the description:

pages _____ 6-12, 14 _____, as originally filed

pages _____ , filed with the demand

pages _____ 1-5, 13 _____, filed with the letter of 01 July 2004 (01.07.2004)

 the claims:

pages _____ 19 _____, as originally filed

pages _____ , as amended (together with any statement under Article 19) _____, filed with the demand

pages _____ , filed with the letter of 01 July 2004 (01.07.2004)

 the drawings:

pages _____ 1/8-8/8 _____, as originally filed

pages _____ , filed with the demand

pages _____ , filed with the letter of _____

 the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____ , as originally filed

pages _____ , filed with the demand

pages _____ , filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is: the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

 contained in the international application in written form. filed together with the international application in computer readable form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form. The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: the description, pages _____ the claims, Nos. _____ the drawings, sheets/fig _____5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).^{**}

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/CH 03/00387

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-18	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-18	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-18	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

The system as per claim 1 constitutes a development of the system known from EP 0 062 753 B or EP 0 778 236 A. In the type of system described in the preamble of claim 1, flexible sheeting, in particular textile sheeting, is laid in zigzag folds, forming a layer of folded sheeting. The resulting layers of folded sheeting are manually stacked, packaged in a container and further processed in the textile industry.

The processing operations can be at least partially automated in that a transfer device is associated with the laying device, can produce a layer of folded sheeting having a predetermined size, and permits the resulting layer of folded sheeting to be directly or indirectly transferred into a packaging container, while a memory-programmable controller controls the system components.

The claimed combination of features cannot be obviously derived from the available prior art. The subject matter of claim 1 therefore involves an inventive step.

Claims 2-18 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore likewise meet the PCT novelty and inventive step requirements.